



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/701,252	11/03/2003	Sandra M. Darling	ITM-102	6100
31671	7590	08/25/2006	EXAMINER	
STEVEN C. SCHNEDLER CARTER SCHNEDLER & MONTEITH, PA 56 CENTRAL AVE., SUITE 101 PO BOX 2985 ASHEVILLE, NC 28802			BOTTORFF, CHRISTOPHER	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3618	
DATE MAILED: 08/25/2006				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/701,252	DARLING, SANDRA M.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Christopher Bottorff	3618	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

1)  Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 June 2006.

2a)  This action is **FINAL**.                            2b)  This action is non-final.

3)  Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

4)  Claim(s) 1-11, 13-28 and 30-32 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)  Claim(s) 13, 15, 22, and 30-32 is/are allowed.

6)  Claim(s) 1-11, 14, 16-21 and 23-28 is/are rejected.

7)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

8)  Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

9)  The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)  The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a)  accepted or b)  objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)  The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

12)  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a)  All    b)  Some \* c)  None of:  
1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

1)  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2)  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3)  Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_

4)  Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_ .  
5)  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6)  Other: \_\_\_\_\_ .

## DETAILED ACTION

The amendment filed June 8, 2006 has been entered. Claims 12 and 29 are canceled. Claims 31 and 32 are added. Claims 1-11, 13-28, and 30-32 are pending.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6, 8-10, 14, 16-19, 21, 26, and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lange US 4,593,841 in view of Adler US 6,062,648.

Lange discloses a multiple-use cover and carrier. See Figures 1 and 2. The multiple-use bag-like cover and carrier has a travel tote configuration with a backpack mode and a luggage mode as alternatives, and has a sun shade configuration when placed in front of an object to block the sun. See Figures 7-9. The multiple-use cover and carrier includes a bag like carrier 36 made of a flexible fabric sheet material that has an interior surface and an exterior surface, wherein an interior compartment is defined that is large enough for large objects including a child safety car seat. See column 3, lines 51-53, and Figures 1, 2, and 7-9, and note the size of the bag relative to the adult male human in Figures 7-9. The compartment has an opening comprising a fastener 41, which allows the opening to be repeatedly opened and closed. See Figure 1. At least one backpack strap 51 is attached to the bag-like carrier generally on the

exterior surface for use in the travel tote configuration backpack mode. See Figures 2 and 8. At least one wheel 21 projects outwardly from the exterior surface at a lower end of the bag-like carrier for use in the travel tote configuration luggage mode. See Figures 2 and 7.

A relatively rigid base 14 is disposed at said lower end of the bag-like carrier, to which base the at least one wheel 21 is attached via a wheel bracket 19. See Figure 2. An object, such as a child safety car seat, may rest upon the base, particularly during luggage transport mode. See Figure 7. The flexible fabric, due to its flexibility, can be wrapped around the base to form a compact package for storage. The bag-like carrier, due to the flexibility of the fabric, is capable of being turned inside-out through the opening, with the interior surface generally exposed, and be used in the sun shade configuration when turned inside out as a protective cover for an object, such as a child safety car seat.

The at least one backpack strap 51 is releasably attached and a stowage compartment 42 is available for the backpack strap. See Figure 2. A handle 53 is provided at an upper end of the bag-like carrier for use in the luggage mode. See Figure 1. The fastener for the interior compartment opening comprises a zipper. See column 3, lines 55-56.

Although the bag-like carrier of Lange may be used in combination with a child safety car seat, Lange does not disclose that the bag-like carrier is provided in combination with a child safety car seat. However, Adler, teaches the desirability of storing and transporting a seat within a bag. See column 5, lines 57-58. From the

teachings of Adler, storing or transporting a seat, including a child safety car seat, within the bag-like carrier of Lange would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. This would provide a system in which the child safety car seat may be stored and carried conveniently.

Claims 1, 2, 5-10, 14, 18-21, 23, 24, 26, 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dunn US 5,265,894 in view of Adler US 6,062,648.

Dunn discloses a multiple-use cover and carrier 11. See Figures 1-4. The multiple-use cover and carrier has a travel tote configuration with a backpack mode and a luggage mode as alternatives, and has a sun shade configuration when placed in front of an object to block the sun. See Figures 1 and 6. The multiple-use cover and carrier includes a bag like carrier 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 made of a flexible fabric sheet material that has an interior surface and an exterior surface, wherein an interior compartment is defined that is large enough for large objects including a child safety car seat. See Figures 1-4 and note the size of the bag-like carrier relative to contained golf bag. The compartment has an opening comprising a fastener 20, which allows the opening to be repeatedly opened and closed. See figure 2. At least one backpack strap 25 attached to the bag-like carrier generally on the exterior surface for use in the travel tote configuration backpack mode. See Figure 1. At least one wheel 32 projects outwardly from the exterior surface at a lower end of the bag-like carrier for use in the travel tote configuration luggage mode. See Figure 3.

A relatively rigid base 17 is disposed at said lower end of the bag-like carrier, to which base the at least one wheel 32 is attached via a wheel bracket. See Figure 3 and column 2, lines 26-27. An object, such as a child safety car seat, may rest upon the base, particularly during luggage transport mode. See Figures 3 and 6. The flexible fabric, due to its flexibility, can be wrapped around the base to form a compact package for storage. See Figure 5. The bag-like carrier is capable of being turned inside-out through the opening, with the interior surface generally exposed, and be used in the sun shade configuration when turned inside out as a protective cover for an object, such as a child safety car seat.

A handle 27 is provided at an upper end of the bag-like carrier for use in the luggage mode. See Figure 1. The fabric portions 12, 13, 14, 15 of the bag form a pocket, located generally on the inside of the bag-like carrier, within which the base 17 is secured. See Figure 3. The fastener 20 for the interior compartment opening comprises a zipper. See column 2, lines 28-31.

Although the bag-like carrier of Dunn may be used in combination with a child safety car seat, Dunn does not disclose that the bag-like carrier is provided in combination with a child safety car seat. However, Adler, teaches the desirability of storing and transporting a seat within a bag. See column 5, lines 57-58. From the teachings of Adler, storing or transporting a seat, including a child safety car seat, within the bag-like carrier of Dunn would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. This would provide a system in which the child safety car seat may be stored and carried conveniently.

Claims 11, 25 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lange US 4,593,841 in view of Adler US 6,062,648 as applied to claims 9 and 26 and further in view of Rosen US 5,549,354.

Lange does not disclose that a portion of the interior surface comprises a reflective material. However, Rosen teaches the desirability of providing a portion of a fabric that covers objects with a reflective material in order to minimize heat build up in the covered object. See column 3, lines 19-24, 31-37, and 41-48. From the teachings of Rosen, providing a portion of the interior surface of Lange with reflective material would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made. This would minimize heat build up within the carrier so the interior is not excessively hot when placing objects in the carrier.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 13, 15, 22, and 30-32 are allowed. The prior art does not disclose, teach or suggest an interior surface of a cover and carrier that is hemmed by an elastic band, or providing the zipper with a pull that is reversible such that it is accessible both when the multiple-use cover and carrier is in its travel tote configuration with the exterior surface facing outward and when the multiple-use cover and carrier is turned inside out in its sun shade configuration. These features, in combination with the further limitations of the claims, distinguish the claimed invention over the prior art.

***Response to Arguments***

Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejection in view of Boone have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, new grounds of rejection are made in view of Adler.

***Conclusion***

Since the new terms of rejection for claims 23-25 were not necessitated by the amendment, this office action is **NOT** final.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher Bottorff whose telephone number is (571) 272-6692. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chris Ellis can be reached on (571) 272-6914. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Christopher Bottorff